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Message Text

SECRET

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73
ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 EB-07

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R 081725Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3489
INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
SECDEF WASHDC
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

S E C R E T BONN 16561

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW
SUBJECT: MBFR: SERVICE SUBCEILINGS

1. ON OCTOBER 8 RUTH DESCRIBED THE ELEMENTS OF THE FRG POSITION ON SERVICE SUBCEILINGS WHICH HE SAID HAD BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE FRG NATO REP THE PRECEDING DAY. HE SAID THE FRG HAD TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION ITS OWN EARLIER PAPER ON THE SUBJECT, THE US PAPER AND THE MORE RECENT UK STUDY. THE ELEMENTS OF THE POSITION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. THE FRG WANTS A FORMULATION WHICH DEFINITELY CONCENTRATES ON GROUND FORCES BY HAVING AN AGREED COMMON CEILING ON SUCH FORCES.

B. THE FRG BELIEVES A MARGIN OF FLUCTUATION COULD BE ADDED TO THE GROUND FORCE MANPOWER.

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C. THE FRG IS WILLING TO ADD THE AIR MANPOWER FIGURE OF 200,000 TO THE 700,000 GROUND FORCE TOTAL TO MAKE A COMBINED COMMON CEILING OF 900,000, BUT WITHOUT REPEAT WITHOUT A SERVICE SUBCEILING ON AIR MANPOWER.

2. ON POINT C. ABOVE, RUTH ARGUED THAT IF A SERVICE SUBCEILING ON AIR MANPOWER WERE IMPOSED, IT WOULD EQUATE GROUND MANPOWER AND AIR MANPOWER IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. MOREOEVER, A FORMULATION WITHOUT AN AIR MANPOWER SUBCEILING WOULD ALSO PROVIDE ENOUGH FLEXIBILITY FOR VOLUNTARY REDUCTIONS TO BE TAKEN SUCH AS THE US PROPOSES TO DO WHEN THE F-4S ARE WITHDRAWN. FINALLY, A SUBCEILING ON AIR MANPOWER WOULD ADD A NEW SUBJECT TO THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH MIGHT NOT BE IN THE WESTERN INTEREST. FOR EXAMPLE, THE EAST MIGHT THEN BE ENCOURAGED TO PRESS FOR REDUCTIONS IN AIR MANPOWER WHICH-AS IS WELL KNOWN-IS SOMETHING WHICH THE FRG HAS DECIDED IT MUST AND WILL AVOID.

3. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE FRG INTENDED TO PROPOSE DRAFT LANGUAGE, RUTH SAID THIS HAD NOT YET BEEN DECIDED. HE PLANNED TO CALL HOYNCK THIS AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FIRST BEFORE DECIDING HOW TO PROCEED. HILLENBRAND

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